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Conference Abstract

REBIOMA Data Portal, Tool for Conservation Planning in Madagascar

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Abstract

Recognizing the abundance and the accumulation of information and data on biodiversity that are still poorly exploited and even unfunded, the REBIOMA project (Madagascar Biodiversity Networking), in collaboration with partners, has developed an online dataportal in order to provide easy access to information and critical data, to support conservation planning and the expansion of scientific and professional activities in Madagascar biodiversity.

The mission of the REBIOMA data portal is to serve quality-labeled, up-to-date species occurrence data and environmental niche models for Madagascar's flora and fauna, both marine and terrestrial. REBIOMA is a project of the Wildlife Conservation Society Madagascar and the University of California, Berkeley.

REBIOMA serves species occurrence data for marine and terrestrial regions of Madagascar. Following upload, data is automatically validated against a geographic mask and a taxonomic authority. Data providers can decide whether their data will be public, private, or shared only with selected collaborators. Data reviewers can add quality labels to individual records, allowing selection of data for modeling and conservation assessments according to quality. Portal users can query data in numerous ways.

One of the key features of the REBIOMA web portal is its support for species distribution models, created from taxonomically valid and quality-reviewed occurrence data. Species

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distribution models are produced for species for which there are at least eight, reliably reviewed, non-duplicate (per grid cell) records. Maximum Entropy Modeling (MaxEnt for short) is used to produce continuous distribution models from these occurrence records and environmental data for different eras: past (1950), current (2000), and future (2080). The result is generally interpreted as a prediction of habitat suitability. Results for each model are available on the portal and ready for download as ASCII and HTML files.

The REBIOMA Data Portal address is **http://data.rebioma.net**, or visit **http://www.rebioma.net** for more general information about the entire REBIOMA project.

Keywords

Species occurrences data, Darwin Core, Data validation, Species distribution model

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Conflicts of interest

None